

Promotion of Buddhism based Cultural and Heritage Tourism

1952. SHRI YADLAPTI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to promote Buddhism based cultural and heritage tourism in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the investments proposed to be made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Bauddha Mahotsava Festival was held at Deskit, Nubra in the State of Jammu and Kashmir from July 24 to 26, 2001. The festivals are also proposed to be held in States of Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and West Bengal. The details are as follows:—

1. Kalpa, Himachal Pradesh	Sept. 15-16, 2001
2. Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh	Oct, 13-14, 2001
3. Jaigaon, West Bengal	Nov. 24-25, 2001

(c) The total budget for the above festivals is Rs. 10.00 lakhs each, 50% of which is Central Share.

Action Plan for Development of tourism in Chhattisgarh and Gujarat

1953. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have drawn any action plan for the development of tourism in the states of Chhattisgarh and Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the complete details of the plan of Government and how much money has been earmarked for the purpose;

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RAJYA SABHA

(c) whether tourist traffic (both international as well as domestic) have declined to these states during the last six months as compared to the same period of last year; and

(d) if so, what are the comparative figures of tourist arrivals to these states during the last six months as compared to the corresponding year of the last year?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Development and promotion of tourism and cultural activities is the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, the Department of Tourism, Government of India provides central financial assistance on the basis of projects prioritised annually in consultation with them. Funds are released on the basis of inter-se-priority and subject to availability. Central Department of Tourism does not prepare Action Plan for any State Government. However, all the State Governments/UT Administrations have been asked to prepare Perspective Plan for their respective States/UTs.

(b) 16 project proposals have been prioritised for central financial assistance of Rs. 250.00 lakhs for the current financial year in respect of the State Government of Chhattisgarh. Insofar as Gujarat is concerned, 19 projects have been prioritised for central financial assistance of Rs. 645.00 lakhs.

(c) Estimated domestic and foreign tourist arrivals are maintained on yearly basis. Since the State of Chhattisgarh came into being in November, 2000, no comparative data is available for 1999. However, there has been increase in the number of international as well as domestic tourist arrivals insofar as Madhya Pradesh is concerned. As far as Gujarat is concerned there is some decline in tourist traffic due to natural calamity *viz.* earthquake in the month of January, 2001.

(d) As mentioned in part (c), the figures are maintained on yearly basis. The comparative figures in respect of States of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh are as follows:—

Name of the State	year	No. of Domestic Tourists	No. of Foreign Tourists
Madhya Pradesh	1999	4259086	118391
	2000*	4684995	123127
Gujarat	1999	11533087	56337
	2000*	11408281	31748

*Provisional

Appointment of consolidators for increasing business of ITDC Hotels

1954. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a major portion of the hotel business is being captured by the private sector hotels because of their excellent customers attention network;

(b) whether Government propose to appoint Consolidators at different places to feed additional business into ITDC hotels; and

(c) the number of existing Consolidators and the Additional Consolidators proposed to be appointed and at what places and the criteria for their appointment?

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THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The major portion of hotel business is being captured by the private sector due to larger share of rooms, better product, working conditions etc. and not only because of better customer attention.

(b) Government does not appoint Consolidators for ITDC.

(c) Does not arise.